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be completely eaten off; for should the pasturing be extended to a single week in May, it is said that the hay crop will be ruined in quality, as it will prove soft, woolly, and unsubstantial, like an aftermath crop.

May.—The meadow having been eaten bare the preceding month, the water is now admitted for a few days, which will in general ensure a good hay crop, in the course of six or seven weeks. It is of great consequence to have the hay in ricks before the Lammas rains commence, which may be easily effected, if the stock is removed from the pasture by the first of May.

To prepare for aftermath pasture, or green house-feeding, the water may be again thrown over the meadow for a few days, and then left quite dry till the grass rise, and be fit for introducing cattle. But if sheep are to be admitted, no water should be used on any account, as summer water infallibly induces rot. It is notwithstaning remarked, that no watering is so enriching as that which is given during summer floods. In the practice of irrigation, meadows require a much greater proportion of days throughout the year to be dry than to be floated; and this proportion seems to vary according to circumstances in the soil, water, and climate; but all the periods of watering included seem to run between six and nine weeks throughout the year.

The superfluous water of navigable canals might be applied with astonishing effect to the purpores of irrigation. This patriotic measure was suggested by the Board of Agriculture, in 1796, in a circular letter to the Canal Companies; but with the circumstances which prevented this national measure from being carried into effect, the writer of this essay is entirely unacquainted. Of its practicability, and beneficial tendency, however, every person who has paid the smallest attention to the subject, must be convinced. The application of navigable canals to the purposes of irrigation, has been long practiced in the Milanese, and rendered that part of Italy among the most fertile and opulent in Europe; and by the economy of the waters of the Nile, an unrivalled fertility was spread over the sandy deserts of Egypt, and the Thebäis, and even over the scorching plains of Lybia.

The numerous lakes which exist in the United Kingdom, might also, at a trifling expense, be drawn off, and applied for the same beneficial purpose; by which our rugged fells and mountains might be converted into a beautiful green, the barren heath into fine sweet pasture, and the rushy fen into a fertile field, to the ultimate amelioration of the British fleece, and the increased wealth and prosperity of the nation at large. This is the dictate of Nature herself, if we would condescend to listen to her voice, or open our eyes to view her operations. Every little stream that rushes from the mountains, where it occasionally overflows its banks, has there meliorated the herbage, while all around is a dismal barren waste. Every where she points out this method of improving the soil, but we have not yet learned to obey her voice, or to copy the example which she daily sets before us!

On the Management of the Onion; by Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq. F.R.S., &c.

(From the Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London.)

The first object of the Horticultural Society being to point out improvements in the culture of those plants which are extensively useful to the public, I send a few remarks on the management of one of these, the onion; which both constitutes one of the humble luxuries of the poor, and finds its way in various forms to the tables of the affluent and luxurious.

Every bulbous rooted plant, and indeed every plant which produces leaves, and lives longer than one year, generates in one season the sap or vegetable blood which composes the leaves and roots of the succeeding spring; and when the sap has accumulated during one or more seasons, it is ultimately expended in the production of blossoms and seeds. This reserved sap is deposited in, and composes in a great measure, the bulb; and, moreover, the quantity accumulated, as well as the period required for its accumulation, varies greatly in the same species of plant, under more or less favourable circumstances. Thus the onion in the South of Europe acquires a much larger size during the long and warm summers of Spain and Portugal, in a single season, than in the colder climate of England; but under the following mode of culture, which I have long practiced, two summers in England produce nearly the effect of one in Spain and Portugal, and the onion assumes nearly the form and size of those thence imported.

Seeds of the Spanish or Portugal onion are sown at the usual period in the spring, very thickly, and in poor soil; generally under the shade of a fruit-tree: and in such situations the bulbs in the autumn are rarely found much to exceed the size of a large pea. These are then taken from the ground, and preserved till the succeeding spring, when they are planted at equal distances from each other, and they afford plants which differ from those raised immediately from seed only, in possessing much greater strength and vigour, owing to the quantity of previously generated sap being much greater in the bulb than in the seed. The bulbs thus raised, often exceed considerably five inches in diameter; and being more mature, they are with more certainty preserved, in a state of perfect soundness, through the winter, than those raised from seed in a single season. The same effects are, in some measure, produced by sowing the seeds in August, as is often done; but the crops often perish during the winter, and the ground becomes compressed and soddened (to use an antiquated term) by the winter rains; and I have, in consequence, always found, that any given weight of this plant may be obtained, with less expense to the grower, by the mode of culture I recommend, than by any other I have seen practiced.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

AGRICULTURE.

A TREATISE on the improved Culture of the Strawberry, Raspberry, and Gooseberry. Designed to prove the present common mode of Cultivation erroneous, and to introduce a cheap, and rational Method of Cultivating the varieties of each genus; by Thomas Haynes, 7s.

BIOGRAPHY.

An Analysis of the Genealogical History of the Family of Howard, with its Connections, 4s. 6d.